



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/680,546	10/04/2000	Douglas G. Keithley	10003131-1	1128

7590 12/18/2003
HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY
Intellectual Property Administration
P.O. Box 272400
Fort Collins, CO 80528-9599

EXAMINER

LEE, CHEUKFAN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2622

DATE MAILED: 12/18/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/680,546

Applicant(s)

Examiner

Cheukfan Lee

Group/Art Unit

2622

—The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address—

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE THREE (3) MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Status

- ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10-4-00
- ☐ This action is FINAL.
- ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3-5, 7, and 9-11 is/are rejected.
- ☒ Claim(s) 2, 6, ~~and~~ 8, and 12 is/are objected to.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

- ☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
- ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.
- ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

- ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
 - ☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____
 - ☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 1.7.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____
- ☒ Notice of Reference(s) Cited, PTO-892
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948
- ☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152
- ☐ Other _____

Office Action Summary

Art Unit: 2622

1. Claims 1-12 are pending. Claims 1 and 7 are independent.
2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

3. Claims 1, 3-5, 7, and 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ui et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,340,984).

Regarding claim 1, Ui et al. discloses a digital copying machine comprising a memory (MR) for storing digital image data, an image-transfer device (PR) for converting the digital image data to a hard copy image, a recording sheet feeder for feeding a recording sheet to the image-transfer device (PR), a skew or inclination detection sensor (LS) for detecting a sheet-feed

Art Unit: 2622

skew or inclination of the sheet during feeding, and a controller (inclination/shift calculation section SO and control section CR) for applying skew compensation or inclination angle correction to the digital image data in accordance with the skew or inclination angle (col. 3, line 66 - col. 4, line 68, col. 5, line 1 - col. 7, line 25).

Regarding claim 3, the digital image data is transferred from the image transfer device to the memory. Since the image-transfer device of claim 1, and thus of claim 3, is for converting between a digital image and a hard-copy media image, instead of the printer (PR), in a case the document image input end (scanner, image processing section, multi-valued circuit) of Ui et al., which includes an analog-to-digital converter among other circuits/sections, is interpreted to be the image-transfer device, Ui et al. meets the claimed limitation. That is, the digital image data is transferred from the image-transfer device to the memory (MR of Fig. 2).

Regarding claim 4, the compensated or inclination corrected digital image data is transferred to the image transfer device (PR) by control section (CR) and reading section (RD) (Fig. 2, col. 4, lines 37-46).

Regarding claim 5, see Figs. 5(a), 5(b), 5(c) and 5(d). Fig. 5(d) represents the image printed on the sheet (col. 5, line 60 - col. 6, line 11). The skew or inclination compensation is performed as a function of the inclination detected using sensor (LS), and the function indicates raster line offsets as a function of raster position, according to Figs. 5(a) to 5(d).

Claims 7 and 11 are rejected as being method claims corresponding to the rejected apparatus claims 1 and 5, respectively.

Art Unit: 2622

Claim 9 is rejected as being a method claim corresponding to rejected apparatus claim 3.

Regarding claim 10, as discussed for claims 1 and 4 above, the compensating or skewing the digital image data occurs before the transferring of the data to the image-transfer device (PR).

4. Claims 2, 6, 8, and 12 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 2 and 8 are allowable over Ui et al. because the memory (MR) of Ui et al. which holds the digital image data, does not hold less than half the data associated with the digital image, at any time. Instead, the memory (MR) holds all the data associated with the digital image (Fig. 5(b), col. 5, lines 60-68).

Claims 6 and 12 are allowable over Ui et al. because in Ui et al., the processing of image data which reflect an inclination angle and an amount of shift of a recording sheet (skew) does not seem to include that fractional raster-line offsets indicate interpolation weight for neighboring pixels as claimed (Ui et al., col. 4, lines 28-67).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

Art Unit: 2622

fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Joichi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,342,909) discloses a method and apparatus for image formation while considering a position of a transfer sheet in a primary scanning direction.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cheukfan Lee at telephone number (703) 305-4867.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist at telephone number (703) 305-3900.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9306 (for formal communications intended for entry)

or hand-carried to:

Crystal Park Two
2121 Crystal Drive
Arlington, VA
Sixth Floor (Receptionist)

C. L.
Dec. 2, 2003


Cheukfan Lee